

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and system are provided for preserving nucleic acids in a bodily fluid, such as urine, blood, blood serum, and amniotic fluid. The preservative includes an amount of a divalent metal chelator selected from ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA),

- 5 [ethylenebis(oxyethylenenitrilo)]tetraacetic acid (EGTA) and 1,2-bis(2-aminophenoxy) ethane-N,N,N',N'-tetraacetic acid (BAPTA), or salts thereof in the range of from about 0.001M to 0.1M; and an amount of at least one chelator enhancing component selected from lithium chloride, guanidine, sodium salicylate, sodium perchlorate, and sodium thiocyanate in the range of from about 0.1M to 2M.

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